

Smith Collins Academy

Path to Graduation: High School Courses and Credit Requirements

Grade 9 (Freshman Year)

Core Courses (30 credits total):

- English 1 (5 credits)
- Algebra I (5 credits)
- Biology with Lab (5 credits)
- World History/Global Studies (5 credits)
- Health & Physical Education (4 credits: 2 PE + 2 Health)

Elective Courses (10 credits total):

- Visual or Performing Arts: Art, Music, or Theater (5 credits)
 - World Language Level 1 (5 credits)
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Grade 10 (Sophomore Year)

Core Courses (30 credits total):

- English 2 (5 credits)
- Geometry (5 credits)
- Chemistry with Lab (5 credits)
- Civics & Government (5 credits)
- Health & Physical Education (4 credits: 2 PE + 2 Health)

Elective Courses (10 credits total):

- Visual or Performing Arts: Advanced Art, Music, or Theater (5 credits)
- World Language Level 2 (5 credits)

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Grade 11 (Junior Year)

Core Courses (32 credits total):

- English 3 (5 credits)
- Algebra II (5 credits)
- Physics with Lab (5 credits)
- U.S. History (5 credits)
- Financial Literacy/Economic and Entrepreneurial Business Literacy (2.5 credits)
- Health & Physical Education (4 credits: 2 PE + 2 Health)
- 21st Century Life and Careers (5 credits): Options include Law, Business Management, or Computer Design

Elective Courses (5 credits total):

- Independent Study, Study Abroad, or other Internship (5 credits)
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Grade 12 (Senior Year)

Core Courses (25.5 credits total):

- English 4 (5 credits)
- Environmental Science (5 credits)
- Advanced Math or Statistics (5 credits)
- Economics (2.5 credits)
- Health & Physical Education (4 credits: 2 PE + 2 Health)
- World Language Level 3 or Advanced Proficiency (State Seal of Biliteracy opportunity)

Elective Courses (12.5 credits total):

- 21st Century Life and Careers (5 credits): Options include Video Production, Business, or Computer Design
- Electives (7.5 credits): Flexible choice for student interests, such as advanced arts, STEM, or internships.

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Summary of Credits	
Subject Area	Credits
English	20
Math	15
Science	20
Social Studies (World, U.S., Civics)	15
Financial Literacy/Economics	5
Health & Physical Education	16
Visual/Performing Arts	10
World Language	15
21st Century Life and Careers	10
Electives	22.5
Total	120

English Language Arts

1. **English 1 (Grade 9)**
Develops foundational skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students explore literary and informational texts, including novels, poetry, and nonfiction. Emphasis is placed on building analytical skills, grammar, and essay writing.
2. **English 2 (Grade 10)**
Focuses on world literature, critical thinking, and analytical writing. Students study diverse cultures and perspectives through literature and strengthen research, citation, and argumentation skills.
3. **English 3 (Grade 11)**
Examines American literature from historical and cultural perspectives. Students write literary analyses, persuasive essays, and conduct research projects. The course integrates advanced grammar and vocabulary study.
4. **English 4 (Grade 12)**
Focuses on advanced literary analysis, writing skills, and critical thinking. Students explore themes in contemporary and classical literature and prepare for post-secondary academic and career writing.

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Mathematics

1. **Algebra I (Grade 9)**

Introduces algebraic principles, including solving equations, inequalities, and graphing linear functions. Students apply mathematical concepts to real-world problems.

2. **Geometry (Grade 10)**

Covers concepts of shapes, angles, proofs, and spatial reasoning. Students explore geometric relationships and apply logic and reasoning in problem-solving.

3. **Algebra II (Grade 11)**

Expands on algebraic concepts, including quadratic equations, polynomials, logarithms, and trigonometric functions. The course emphasizes critical thinking and real-world applications.

4. **Advanced Math or Statistics (Grade 12)**

Offers options to study advanced algebra, pre-calculus, or introductory statistics. Students learn practical applications, including data analysis and problem-solving in real-world scenarios.

Science

1. **Biology with Lab (Grade 9)**

Explores life sciences, including cell biology, genetics, ecology, and evolution. Laboratory experiences emphasize hands-on learning and scientific inquiry.

2. **Chemistry with Lab (Grade 10)**

Covers chemical principles such as atomic structure, chemical reactions, and the periodic table. Lab work supports the development of analytical and critical-thinking skills.

3. **Physics with Lab (Grade 11)**

Introduces the principles of motion, force, energy, and waves. Students engage in hands-on experiments and use mathematics to model physical phenomena.

4. **Environmental Science (Grade 12)**

Explores ecological systems, human impacts on the environment, and sustainability. Students engage in case studies, fieldwork, and discussions on global environmental challenges.

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Social Studies

1. **World History/Global Studies (Grade 9)**

Examines the development of civilizations, cultural exchange, and global interactions from ancient times to the modern era. Students analyze historical events and their impact on the world today.

2. **Civics & Government (Grade 10)**

Focuses on the structure and functions of government, the U.S. Constitution, and civic responsibilities. Students explore contemporary political issues and participate in debates and simulations.

3. **U.S. History (Grade 11)**

Surveys American history from pre-Colonial times to the present, emphasizing social, economic, and political developments. Students evaluate primary and secondary sources to develop historical arguments.

4. **Economics (Grade 12)**

Introduces economic principles, including supply and demand, market systems, and government policy. Students learn to analyze financial decisions and understand global economic trends.

Health & Physical Education

1. **Health**

Covers personal health, nutrition, mental health, and decision-making skills. Includes topics such as substance abuse prevention and sexual education with an emphasis on overall wellness.

2. **Physical Education**

Promotes physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Activities include team sports, individual exercises, and wellness programs tailored to students' fitness levels.

Visual or Performing Arts

1. **Art**

Explores foundational skills in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Students learn elements of design, art history, and develop their creative expression.

2. **Music**

Introduces musical theory, composition, and performance. Students may explore instruments, vocal techniques, and collaborative performance opportunities.

3. **Theater**

Focuses on acting techniques, stage production, and scriptwriting. Students participate in performances and learn about the history and impact of theater arts.

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World Language

1. **World Language (Levels 1-3)**

Offers instruction in languages such as Spanish, French, or others as available. Students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing while exploring cultural contexts. Completion of Level 3 or demonstration of advanced proficiency may earn the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Financial Literacy & 21st Century Life and Careers

1. **Financial Literacy/Economic and Entrepreneurial Business Literacy**

Prepares students with financial skills such as budgeting, investing, and managing credit. Students explore entrepreneurship and create a business plan.

2. **21st Century Life and Careers**

Offers pathways in law, business, video production, and computer design. Emphasis is placed on career readiness, project-based learning, and technology integration.

Electives

1. **Electives**

Students select from diverse options including advanced arts, STEM, internships, independent study, or extracurricular programs such as Model UN, Young Global Entrepreneurs or Communications Club. Electives provide opportunities to pursue individual interests and career goals.